The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting and concerning in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and exercises other functions of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 25, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1548 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1940 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 30, NO. 50

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

It seems that some of the Navy Admirals are out of step, as usual. The latest to fall by the wayside is Rear Admiral Ray Spear, who in his annual report as Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, complains that the Walsh-Healy and Fair Labor Standards Acts are retarding expansion of industrial facilities to meet defense needs.

But it's not a bit surprising to hear a Navy Admiral talk like a member of the Union League Club. In fact, the high-ranking officials of our Navy form a more exclusive set than any group of pot-bellied plutocrats in the nation. To some of these Admirals a foreigner is a foreigner, be he Britisher or Hitler. They are used to dictatorial methods. As commander of a battleship, a squadron or a fleet, an Admiral stalks the deck with complete authority. He hears no labor problems, has no labor problems, and has no labor problems. With such a background, it is no wonder that the Admirals find it difficult to understand the complexities of industrial production where civilian workers, not men in uniform, are employed.

The time has come to democratize the Navy. We urge no lessening of discipline aboard ship. That is necessary in peace time as well as in time of war. But we do insist that the administrative bureaus of the Navy Department and their personnel take a few lessons in democracy, learn what it's all about and get back into step with the Government and the labor policies.

The Army Is Way Ahead

It might do the Navy boys a lot of good to take a look at what's happened in the Army. Officials of the War Department have progressed so far ahead of their colleagues in the Navy that they are out of sight. Under Secretary of War Stimson, the Army has adopted an enlightened and progressive policy toward labor. It has not only driven full speed ahead in the defense program, but has shown a sincere desire to abide by the provisions of the labor laws protecting the standards of the working men and women of America. As a result, Army defense projects are being constructed far ahead of schedule. A fine spirit of cooperation exists between organized labor and the Army. There has not been a single strike on any Army defense project by an American Federation of Labor union. In fact, all affected A. F. of L. unions have gone out of their way to help the Army speed up its program and supply the necessary labor, even when that meant transporting large groups of skilled workers to communities far from their homes.

We must not forget that America's first line of defense is not the Navy with its warships and its airplanes, nor the Army with its regiments of drilled soldiers and its mechanized equipment, but the army with a small "a"—the great army of millions of men and women in American industry producing the vast stores of materials and equipment and new plant capacity so vital to the defense of our country.

Both the Navy Admirals and the Army generals are very careful to provide for their own men. They have learned Napoleon's adage that an "Army travels on its stomach." They know that soldiers and sailors, to fight well must be well-fed, well-housed and in good health.

Then why in the name of all that's reasonable can't they understand that it is even more important that the great army of workers, who constitute the first line of defense, must also be well-fed, well-housed and in good health in order to construct the ships and produce the armament without which any armed force would be helpless?

Why in the name of simple logic can't they understand that the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Walsh-Healy Act and other similar labor laws are designed to provide a minimum guarantee of fair conditions to the army of workers?

The Government Understands

Fortunately, the Government of the United States under the leadership of President Roosevelt does understand these fundamental truths. Fortunately, the leadership of the American Federation of Labor is powerful, influential and aggressive enough to counteract the ignorance of the Navy Admirals.

But, unfortunately, such misleading and irrational statements as the occasional Admiral is likely to make are seized upon for propaganda purposes by greedy industrialists and their screaming stooges in Congress to help their short-sighted campaign for higher profits out of the blood and sweat of the program at the expense of the workers.

This campaign has now reached its height, pitch of labor-baiting and the air is filled with demands for anti-strike laws and repeal of labor-protective laws. Don't be too deeply disturbed by all this empty noise and the wide publicity the subsidized press is giving to the agitation for such legislation. Legislation of the type that would shackle labor has no chance of adoption in our democracy. It cannot command more than a few votes in Congress, it is opposed by the A. F. of L. and all other labor organizations, and is rejected by the great majority of the American people.

But the very fact that another serious anti-labor campaign is under way should serve as a warning to labor to be on guard. Labor must be reasonable, it must be strong, it must be self-disciplined, it must be 100 per cent American to continue to command the respect and support of the American people as a whole. This is labor's greatest safeguard.

AFL Recommends Six-Point Program To Aid and Protect Migrant Workers

Washington, D. C.—A six-point program to protect migrant workers and to alleviate the insecurity of their economic and social life was presented to the President's Committee Investigating Inter-State Migration of Destitute Citizens by Boris Shishkin, economist for the American Federation of Labor.

In outlining this program, Mr. Shishkin said:

"Advance job inventories should be made to provide advance information on prospective employment opportunities. Such a service developed nationally by public employment offices in defense industries and in all seasonal and fluctuating employments would greatly reduce the flow of 'blind migration' which is most costly and wasteful to our community and to our economy. Such migration should be undertaken as promptly as possible and only following full cooperation and consultation of organized labor and of industry.

"Federal licensing of all private employment agents and agencies operating across state lines, for the purpose of preventing fraudulent misrepresentation of job opportunities, usurious fees and all other illicit and speculative traffic on human labor, as well as regulation of interstate job advertising, would put an end to many vicious practices by labor contractors, employment agents and unscrupulous employers.

"Extension of coverage of the minimum wages and maximum hour standards of the Wage and Hour Act and extension of safeguards of collective bargaining rights to workers now excluded from protection of these fair standard labor conditions and unfair labor practices are strongly urged. Migrant labor as bringing into operation long range stabilizing forces.

"Most migrants are in flight from economic insecurity. Extension of coverage of the social security legislation to wage earners now excluded nationally, has been urged upon Congress by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor as a method of bringing an important measure of economic stability and security from unemployment. Migration should be done under the plan embodied in the Wagner-McCormack amendments supported by the American Federation of Labor. Extension of unemployment compensation to temporary and casual workers and to employments now excluded is also necessary.

"Undoubtedly the most outstanding means of stabilizing residence in a community for large groups of workers and in reducing pressure to migrate is the provision of low-rent housing as well as urban, under the programs of the United States Housing Authority and Farm Security Administration. This practical program reaching, and now reaching soon, our lowest income families and providing for decent but simple housing for their needs must be assisted and encouraged through authorization of additional funds under the United States Housing Act.

"To meet the most immediate needs of the migrants, the American Federation of Labor has successfully urged additional appropriations of the Administration of the Migratory Labor Camp Program of the Farm Security Administration. This program should be so necessary to meet the requirements of migrant workers and their families now in need.

"In addition to housing, provision should be made for health and medical care of the families of migratory workers. The American Federation of Labor and other labor and civic committees recommend to Congress a federal program of grants-in-aid to states and of uniform minimum standards of assistance which would make it possible to deal with the problem nationally."

N. Y. ELECTRIC UNION WINS PAY-BOOST STRIKE

New York, N. Y.—Fifteen hundred workers, employed by the electrical supply concerns in greater New York, who were on strike a week, are back at work as the result of a settlement it was announced by Samuel Dobbins, business representative of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 3.

The workers affected clerks, managers, salesmen and buyers in ninety-five per cent of wholesale and jobbing concerns which supply retail stores with electrical equipment and appliances.

The terms of the contract agreed upon were hailed by Mr. Dobbins as a clear-cut victory for the union and its members. They provide for an increase for all employees, a forty hour week with time and a half for overtime, two weeks vacation with pay, seven holidays with pay and a union shop. The new contract will be in effect for two years and will expire on November 30, 1942. However, after it has been in effect for one year, wages will be subject to an upward adjustment.

Employment Reaches Record Peaks; No Danger of Labor Shortage Seen

Washington, D. C.—Employment in the United States has reached the highest peak in 11 years, the American Federation of Labor's Monthly Unemployment Survey revealed. With 46 states reporting for October, 1940, our industries are providing more employment than at any other time in the history of our country except for a few months in 1929. The only months this employment has been exceeded was from May to November, 1929, when the number at work reached a peak of 47,500,000.

Today we have a labor force of 6,000,000 more workers than in 1929. That is why, as the defense program rolls along, we are not meeting any shortage of workers.

Our unemployment estimate shows that in October, 1940, there were still 8,130,000 unemployed. This compares with 8,467,000 in September this year and 9,181,000 in October, 1939.

Up to September, 1940, reemployment had not been taking place at a very rapid rate. Since the defense program started in May, 1940, 2,100,000 persons have either been reemployed in industry or taken into military forces. Reemployment has been 1,400,000, and increase in military forces 700,000. Today our army, navy, marines and coast guard number 783,000.

By Christmas, 1941, we may expect to have 6,000,000 more at work than there are today, according to the latest estimates of the Defense Commission. This will mean that the rate of reemployment will continue at the same rapid pace as in September and October, when 500,000 men and women per month went back to work. The rate of increase in our armed forces was 190,000 per month in these two months.

Today the United States is producing more goods in a 40 hour week than we produced in 1929 on a 48 or 50 hour week, and we have fewer persons employed. Our labor supply is adequate to meet all defense needs provided that employers plan ahead. We need only adequate time to train men for the type of work required. Those who fail to plan ahead for their labor needs have no r.. to cry "labor shortage" if trained ..orkers are not ready for them.

A. F. of L. UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

1940 Monthly	Gainful Workers	Number Employed	Number Unemployed
January	53,764,000	43,108,000	10,656,000
February	53,811,000	43,218,000	10,593,000
March	53,859,000	43,558,000	10,301,000
April	53,907,000	43,879,000	10,028,000
May	53,956,000	44,079,000	9,877,000
June	54,004,000	44,452,000	9,552,000
July	54,051,000	44,507,000	9,544,000
August	54,098,000	44,904,000	9,194,000
September	54,154,000	45,678,000	8,467,000
October	54,192,000	46,062,000	8,130,000

AFL Union Drive In Aircraft Plants Nets 30,000 Members, Higher Pay

Washington, D. C.—Record progress in signing up workers and negotiating agreements in the fast-growing aircraft industry was reported by the International Association of Machinists.

A. M. membership in factories making plane and aircraft parts has passed the 30,000 mark. Contracts have been won in seven of the plants, and wages and working conditions in these establishments are substantially better than in the industry, union officials pointed out.

However, the union isn't resting with these gains. It has launched a huge organizing drive in the aircraft industry throughout the United States and Canada. Five Grand Lodge representatives, plus many local business agents, have been assigned to the membership campaign on the coast. Many others are on the job in aircraft centers elsewhere.

This drive will have far-reaching consequences, because the aircraft industry, while sharing in profitable government contracts, has been one of the worst-run industries in the nation. The Machinists are out to correct that condition.

One of the latest contracts in the industry is in effect at Boeing Aircraft in Seattle, it was pointed out. There the A. M. succeeded in the face of an-hour minimum starting wage for production workers, with the rate rising to $1 per hour after 90 days' service. The union won 8,000 members at Boeing, all working under a "closed shop."

Another remarkable agreement has been negotiated with the Lockheed plants in Burbank, Calif., both of which are under private ownership. There Aeronautical Mechanics' Lodge No. 727 of the Machinists has gained 1,700 members and won exclusive bargaining rights.

Its pact with that company establishes minimum starting pay at 51 cents, but this mounts to 70 cents after 90 days, with those 224 skilled workers going up to $1.22 an hour.

At Consolidated Aircraft in San Diego, the Machinists have had bargaining rights, under written agreement, since 1937, and membership has now climbed to 6,000.

Pay rates for skilled help run as high as $1,575 a month. At the Mitchell Camera Company of Hollywood, which makes airplane parts and is under a closed shop agreement with the Machinists.

A contract is also being negotiated at the Hammond Aircraft Company in San Francisco, and lodges have been set up at the Douglas Aircraft in Inglewood, Calif.; Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica, Calif., and at a number of other plane centers.

Among plants elsewhere under contract with the Machinists are the Vultee unit in Nashville, Tenn.; Curtiss-Wright in St. Louis; Beech Aircraft in Wichita, Kans., and seven of seven factories.

Organizing drives are also under way at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, Conn.; Wright Aeronautical Corporation in Paterson, N. J., and Clifton, N. J.; Brewster Aeronautical Corporation in Newark, N. J.; Sikorsky, at Bridgeport, Conn., and many others, both in the United States and Canada.

Warner Denounces Nazism, Fascism and Communism as Menacing America

Milo J. Warner, Commander of the American Legion, condemned the Communist, Nazism and Fascism in his address to the recent convention of the Legion and the A. F. of L. in many Mr. Warner said:

"Each of us has denounced Communism, Fascism, Nazism, and all other isms that menace our country and them for the things they are. We have demonstrated the wisdom of America's policy of isolation. The whole world revolution now in progress is the battle of ideologies we foresaw. If our warnings have not been unheeded in other parts of the world, we have succeeded in strengthening the people of this country against the wily cunning of all their agencies.

"The days ahead are more difficult, as we refuse these non-American doctrines that seek cover in the darkness of night to and show us the way in the bright sun of the future, we must remain alert and on guard more than ever, continually that while life in America may not be perfect, and while some of the things we have may be more nearly perfect have to be postponed to a future date, there is no place better anywhere else in the world.

"We are Americans in the world of today and what a privilege. If you question it at all, and I know you do not, just imagine for a moment you are enjoying this very minute right here in this very room with those any other country in the world has to offer. While we are gathered here in a great body with great advanced publicity, there are those places across the seven seas where men may gather even in the smallest groups without arousing suspicion.

"While we speak freely, and indeed I am speaking freely to you today, others must speak under lips or whisper in guarded tones.

"While lights may brighten these walls, others live in the darkness, the tragedy of the blackout.

"While we breathe God's own pure air, others are adjusting their gas masks. While we live peacefully and pursue our callings from day to day in increasing terror of their nearest neighbors. While we may dial our radio to any program anywhere in the world, others must deafen their ears to the outside world and listen to the voice of the self-appointed master. While we may think and say what we please, the lips of others are circumscribed to the minutest detail.

"Here in America each of us is still free to live his own life in his own way so long as he doesn't encroach upon the similar rights of others. In Europe there may be indeed even a stigma attached to class origin which may taint the life of a whole family, even a whole people. Here in America men are measured by their own conduct."

D. C. MEAT CUTTERS GAIN PAY INCREASES

Washington, D. C.—The Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of America, A. F. of L. affiliate, signed an agreement with Sanitary Grocery Company, large chain grocery concern in this area, raising the wages of journeymen butchers from $32.50 to $35 a week, apprentices with less than four years' experience from $21 to $22, and apprentices with less than three years from $24 to $26. The contract also includes time and one-half paid for overtime work, a week's vacation with pay and full holidays on Washington's birthday and Armistice Day.

News Briefs

COMPENSATION RACKET CHECKED IN NEW YORK

New York, N. Y.—A warning to employers in laundry and other services insured by Industrial Commissioner Frieda S. Miller. She cited the case of Maurice Greenberg, insurance broker, convicted in the New York Court of Special Sessions of selling workmen's compensation insurance posters at $15 apiece to laundry operators, representing to them that they could obtain insurance for their premises they could mislead labor department investigators into believing that they carried workmen's compensation insurance, whereas they carried none in fact.

"We hope other employers will not be taken in by such representations as Mr. Greenberg's, because we can assure them it does not pay either in money, time or trouble," Commissioner Miller said.

AFL SEAFARERS CHOSEN BY WEST COAST SEAMEN

San Francisco, Calif.—The Seafarers International Union of North America, A. F. of L. affiliate, gained two outstanding victories in this area over CIO unions.

In a National Labor Relations Board election for the men who sail the Baltimore Insular Line ships for collective bargaining agent the seamen voted three to one for the A. F. of L. affiliate. In North Santiago, the Fish Cannery Workers of the Pacific, affiliate of the International Seafarers Union, was certified by the labor Board as exclusive representative for collective bargaining of all maintenance and employees employed of the Old Mission Packing Corporation, following an election in which the CIO union ran a poor second.

CONTINENTAL LIFE AGENTS CHOOSE AFFILIATE OF AFL

Washington, D. C.—The insurance agents employed by the Continental Life Insurance Company in Richmond, Va., in an election held by the National Labor Relations Board, voted to be represented by the Insurance Agents' Union, affiliated with the A. F. of L. The union, organized in 1937, has agents voting in the election are members of Local 19,000 of the Insurance Agents in Richmond. The company has its home office in Washington, D. C., and has agencies in Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

PAY BOOST PACT GAINED BY POCKETBOOK WORKERS

New York, N. Y.—President Reinlib of the Pocketbook Ladies' Handbag, Pocketbook and Novelty Workers' Union, A. F. of L. affiliate, reported that he had signed a contract with the C. F. Rump & Sons, Inc., of Philadelphia. Terms provide for a closed union shop, a general weekly wage increase of $1 to $2, a maximum forty hour week, time and a half with all the increases retroactive to November 1, 1940, and double time with pay for all workers and time and one-half for certain holidays and for night work.

The company was established in 1850 and this is the first time it has ever dealt with a union, Mr. Reinlib said.

GRAIN PROCESSORS SIGN UP BALLARD & BALLARD CO.

Louisville, Ky.—The A. F. of L. Grain Millers Union, No. 20262, recently negotiated a closed shop agreement with the Ballard & Ballard Company, the largest flour and feed mill in the South, Edw. H. Weyler, secretary of the Kentucky State Federation of Labor, announced. The contract carries a five cent per hour wage increase for the 300 workers, bringing approximately 27% the total yearly increase totalling about $35,000. The contract also includes a provision for an arbitration committee.

NYA HEALTH PROJECTS FORMED IN 43 STATES

Washington, D. C.—State-wide health projects for NYA workers will be in operation before January 1 in all 48 States, the District of Columbia, Alaska, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands as part of the National Youth Administration's $2,500,000 health program, NYA Administrator Aubrey Williams reported to Paul V. McNutt, Federal Security Administrator and co-ordinator of all health and welfare activities affecting national defense.

CHICAGO TEACHERS FORM LIST OF BLOOD DONORS

Chicago, Ill.—Officials of the Chicago Teachers Union announced plans to protect its members in another emergency through a volunteer blood donors list. The blood of each member volunteer will be typed by the Civic Medical Center, a medical organization only endorsed by the union, which believes itself to be the first labor organization to arrange for such far-seeing preventive medical action.

Roosevelt Spikes Anti-Labor Moves By Tory Congressmen and Business

Moves to Bar Strikes on Defense Projects Get Cold Shoulder From New Deal.

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt spiked the guns of anti-labor employers and reactionary Congressmen clamoring for restrictive legislation against labor unions when he declared emphatically at a press conference that he will oppose, any move to place labor in a "straight-jacket."

The President's statement was followed by a strong declaration from the Labor Policy Advisory Committee of the National Defense Commission exposing the falsity of the anti-labor propaganda. The committee, which includes six American Federation of Labor representatives, said:

"In this time of world crisis American labor is awake to the crucial need for a strong national defense program. Labor recognizes fully that if the democratic way of life is to be preserved and enlarged our country must prepare itself for total defense —morally and materially.

"Labor knows that it is the first to be destroyed under the sweep of dictatorship. Labor knows that if workers are to remain free men and enjoy their basic democracy—as a living faith, as a living reality—it must be kept free from the threat of totalitarianism within and without. Labor has been—and is—cooperating wholeheartedly throughout the entire defense effort.

"Until very recently no single serious disharmony of production in defense industries had occurred; and then only two such work-stoppages took place—the first lasting six working days and the second four days.

"This record is ample evidence that labor recognizes the importance of continuous production to meet defense needs. Labor again reaffirms its assurance of cooperation with the national defense program and further pledges itself to take no action which may in any way impede production before all conciliation facilities of the Federal government for resolving any existing controversy have been exhausted."

This statement failed to point out that the two strikes affecting the defense program involved CIO unions and that there has not been a single strike by any American Federation of Labor union which has impeded the Government's preparedness effort.

Most of the crackpot suggestions from anti-labor spokesmen were aimed at depriving labor of the right to strike. A prompt survey by the American Federation of Labor's legislative bureau showed that such a proposal could command only a handful of votes in Congress and that sentiment was overwhelmingly against it.

Administration leaders emphasized that it would be folly to sacrifice the democratic rights of labor as the first step in a program designed to safeguard American democracy.

Government representatives from every Federal agency involved in the national defense program emphasized that the record of cooperation of the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated unions has been 100 per cent.

The policy of the American Federation of Labor was clearly enunciated by the recent 60th annual convention in New Orleans which unanimously adopted resolutions pledging full and sincere support of the defense program, even if such support entails strict self-discipline and important sacrifices.

However, the CIO Vultee strike on the West Coast, which Attorney General Jackson attributed partly to Communist machinations, and other labor developments in the CIO camp have given anti-labor groups an excuse to pounce on all of organized labor with their poisoned shafts.

Fortunately the Administration is completely out of sympathy with these anti-labor moves and the forces supporters of anti-strike laws will find themselves out in the cold.

McGrady Named Labor Consultant

Washington, D. C.—The War Department announced the appointment of Edward F. McGrady, former Assistant Secretary of Labor, as Special Consultant to the Secretary of War on labor matters. Mr. McGrady is now Vice President in charge of Labor Relations for the Bell Aircraft Corporation of America. He formerly was a member of the legislative staff of the American Federation of Labor and retains membership in the Printing Pressmen's Union.

McGrady served as First Assistant Secretary of Labor from 1933 until 1937. In 1935, he also served as Assistant Administrator of the National Recovery administration.

His name has been associated with the organized labor movement in the United States for more than 40 years. He worked as a newspaper pressman in Boston, became president of the Boston Printing Pressmen's Union, and later was elected president of the Boston Central Labor Union and of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor. At the same time he was a member of the Boston Common Council and of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

9 MILLION HOMES NEEDED BY POOR

Low Cost Building Impeded By High Interest Rates, Report Finds.

Washington, D. C.—Urgent need for vast extension of low-cost housing construction was stressed in a report by economists and housing experts on the staff of Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney's Monopoly Investigating Committee.

More than 9,000,000 American families with incomes below $1,500 a year need new homes, the report declared. Despite this huge need, the depression would be cured to a "surprising" extent by "getting idle men back to work" and "interest rates low for idle investment funds," it was found.

The report is a reminder that the national defense program is not the only work to put men, money and machines to work, because this can be done by clearing slums and providing decent homes for the American people.

"The difficulty, however," the report said, "is that under the present set-up the housing industry is geared to produce homes primarily for families earning $2,500 or more per year.

"We build largely for this limited group because the remodeling industry has followed traditional practices and failed to keep up with progressive methods that have enabled other industries to extend their markets to low-income groups. Moreover, about 80% the raw materials of the building industry are concentrated in a few hands, with a controlled and inflexible pricing system.

It points out that construction costs are highest in those cities where building trades wage rates are lowest, and lowest where labor costs are highest. The important facts disclosed at the O'Mahoney committee's hearings are cited to explode the idea that "high wages" are the cause of the high cost of housing.

On the other hand, the report explains that high interest rates are a real obstacle to home construction, and that "rental housing for the lower half of the middle income group ($1,000 to $2,000) might well be stimulated by paying the cost of interest charged on the money invested.

U. S. STAMP PLAN CREATES FEW JOBS IN FOOD TRADE

Washington, D. C.—The Department of Agriculture received a report from three Government experts that the food stamp plan begun in Rochester, N. Y., in May, 1939, has stimulated consumption of surplus foods among low-income groups, but as yet has had no appreciable effect on employment in the food industry.

The food stamp plan makes available to persons on relief certain specified surplus products in exchange for blue stamps which they receive free if they accept part of their cash relief allowance in orange stamps good for the purchase of any food item.

LEATHER WORKERS GIVEN 35-CENT MINIMUM WAGE

Washington, D. C.—A recommendation of the Luggage and Leather Goods Industry Committee urging a minimum wage of 35 cents an hour for that industry, effective January 6, 1941, has been approved by Col. Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. It was estimated that the 35-cent minimum would increase the hourly wage rate of approximately 5,000 workers in the 18,000 employed in the industry.

Moves to Ban Strikes on Defense Projects Get Cold Shoulder From New Deal.

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N. Y. PAINTING INDUSTRY TO BE RULED BY POSNER

New York, N. Y.—Mayor La Guardia appointed Louis S. Posner, attorney at 170 Broadway, as impartial chairman for the painting industry to serve under a three-year agreement between employers and executors in Manhattan and the Bronx, signed by the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, Council 9, A. F. of L. affiliate, and the Association of Master Painters and Decorators.

The agreement which ended a recent strike of 14,000 workers provides for an increase of ten cents an hour for existing work, except work contracted for prior to April 1, 1941, the expiration date of the old contract, includes a provision that all disputes be submitted to arbitration and prohibits strikes during the life of the contract.

Secretary-Treasurer Louis Weinstock of the painters union said his organization of 15,000 was grateful for arbitration machinery to handle their grievances. He expressed the hope that the new arrangement would eliminate the evils of "kickback, underpayment of wages and unemployment." President Michael W. McCarthy of the master painters association said he believed the agreement and Mr. Posner's willingness to serve as impartial chairman provided for "constructive changes for the industry which would benefit all concerned.